

*Chairman Sinrud, members of the Committee, my name is Joan Van Duynhoven. I am a CNM who works in the Butte Silver Bow Family Planning clinic, I have 10 years experience in Family Planning, in 6 MT cities.*

*I am here in support of HB 638.*

*This program provides a much needed resource in all MT communities to women & men. The most important being education. Education that is not provided to the extent that Family Planning Clinics does, in other settings i.e. private clinics. If we continue to be compromised by the increase cost of contraceptives we are in jeopardy of losing a service for an at risk/vulnerable population. Citizens without health insurance or economic resources come to us for contraception, and end up receiving much more, education of the most thorough kind in family planning, preventative health & risks to their health including sexually transmitted infections, immunizations, diet, exercise. Preventative health screenings. Treatment when necessary, evaluation, explanation, and use of contraceptive options, abstinence and preconceptual information.*

*My patients can be a teenager to a woman in her late 50's. Their employment does not provide health insurance and their income is >\$10/hr. I often see women who have had several, mishaps in life, are recovering from addiction, have lost their children to foster care & are trying to rebuild their lives. A life that would only be further challenged by an unplanned pregnancy. I can not imagine the expense to this state, thru the cost of Medicaid to women who become pregnant due to the inability to receive annual preventative care & low cost contraception. We have an extensive follow-up system for our patients who have negative results, an std or precancerous cells on the cervix, guiding each patient, giving, education support and direction on how to care for themselves, so the problem does not progress to cancer or life*

***threatening infection. Because of the way our care is set up, patients have to see us annually to get their contraception, it is assured that annually they will receive the necessary health screenings, education and treatment as they grow change and their needs change.***

***I work in Family Planning because I believe in it's place in our community, the services we provide and the benefit for all, I love my work and I especially Love the clients we serve. Please support HB 638.***